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**International
Communication
Agency**

United States of America
Washington, D.C. 20547

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Office of the Director

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FILE: Speeches.

November 19, 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable
William Casey
Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: Charles Z. Wick *CW*
Director
International Communication Agency

SUBJECT: President Reagan's Speech of November 18,
1981

The attached is the USICA morning and afternoon summary of the overseas reaction to the President's speech.

As a result of USICA satellite feed to Chinese state television, our audience increased by more than 250 million viewers and/or listeners.

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SPECIAL

MORNING SUMMARY

THE OPERATIONS CENTER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY

TELEGRAMS and BULLETINS 11/19/81 -- 0900

Reaction To The President's Speech

USNATO -- The live transmission of the speech was viewed by the NATO staff, NATO delegations and Brussels-based correspondents who reacted to the President's words with appreciation and enthusiasm. Journalists told USICA staffers "you have captured the propaganda high ground which should have properly been yours all along." Many journalists described the President's delivery as "compelling" and "historic," saying it addressed the concerns of Europeans on security matters. The Mission is receiving numerous requests for reprints of the speech.

USICA Bonn -- Analysis and commentary following the live nationwide transmission of the speech was highly favorable and underscored that "the ball is now in the Soviet corner" while demonstrating the President's respect for European opinion.

USICA Beijing -- Chinese state television received an excellent transmission via the Agency satellite feed and plans to use extensive excerpts from the speech. This is the first time that a complete Presidential address on non-bilateral issues has been received by satellite by Chinese television. USICA played the key role in making this possible.

USICA Bern -- Live Swiss coverage of the speech resulted from Post contacts with Swiss TV. Blanket coverage of the speech by TV, radio and the press has been 100 percent favorable.

(C) Embassy Ottawa -- Senior Canadian officials, including Prime Minister Trudeau, are highly laudatory of the speech and have advised the Embassy that the Canadian government will respond to media queries with the statement that Canada "welcomes" the speech and endorses the President's message. (Confidential, SECSTATE-Ottawa 07154 RDS-1 11/18/01)

USICA Madrid -- PAO Vallimarescu says: "Suggest Agency ... should move (such) material Unclassified Immediate USINFO, with embargo, on 'hold for release' basis. Classification of such texts designed for wide public dissemination slows processing and distribution in the field since key local employees technically prohibited from handling 'Confidential.' Classification also inhibits movement of material through official communication channels." (Editor's Note: The text was transmitted in classified form on White House instructions.)

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AFTERNOON SUMMARY

THE OPERATIONS CENTER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT, INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION AGENCY

TELEGRAMS and BULLETINS 11/19/81 -- 1430

The President's Speech

(C) Soviet Media Shed Crocodile Tears Over USICA's Dissemination Role -- Izvestiya today noted the USICA role in disseminating President Reagan's speech, saying it has been pictured by "Reagan himself and the U.S. propaganda media as an 'American program for the preservation of peace in Europe.'" Extensive Soviet media reaction to the speech, including commentary from Soviet bloc countries, stressed that the Reagan proposals would upset the current theater nuclear forces balance and that the speech was nothing more than a propaganda ploy to calm a growing European peace movement. Tass wires have parroted this theme, with variations. Embassy Prague notes that a Czech commentary on the speech is replete with distortions which it hopes that a broadcast of the entire speech in Czech translation by VOA will clear up. USICA Berlin plans to send copies of the speech to a number of regime-inspired persons who have protested to the Embassy the alleged U.S. disregard for peace and arms control. Embassy Beirut reports Ambassador Dillon was meeting with senior Lebanese editors on U.S.-Mideast issues at the very hour the speech was given. He provided the group with the advance text of the speech and reports they accepted the point of U.S. willingness to negotiate with the Soviets on key issues. Embassy Nairobi reports that the Kenyan foreign minister viewed the live telecast of the speech and had it recorded on videotape for a second viewing. Ambassador Harrop has also heard praise of the speech from a number of important quarters and says that although the live coverage was expensive, "it certainly paid dividends in Nairobi." (Limited Official Use, SECSTATE-Berlin 6144; Unclassified, SECSTATE-Berlin 6152; Unclassified, SECSTATE-Prague 4740; Limited Official Use, SECSTATE-Beirut 8399; Unclassified, SECSTATE-Nairobi 25740; FBIS)

(C) Expected Soviet Propaganda Initiative Believed Defused by Reagan Message -- Embassy Moscow has learned from a highly reliable West German source in Moscow that President Brezhnev, during his Bonn visit, is expected to surface a propaganda initiative aimed at the West German "peace" movement. This source believes Brezhnev will suggest that the Soviets are ready to reduce their existing theater nuclear weapons as well as observe a moratorium on new deployments. Embassy Moscow comments that the French and British

ambassadors agree with the source that President Reagan's speech yesterday will "effectively take the wind out of any such propaganda initiative."
(Confidential, SECSTATE-Moscow RDS-4 11/18/2001)

(U) Through a Glass Darkly: Soviets Use U.S. Media to Discount Reagan Initiative --
Tass today quoted well-known American critics on U.S. defense policies and made selective interpretive use of U.S. media comments to buttress the Soviet argument that President Reagan's speech yesterday was nothing more than a "propaganda ploy" aimed at defusing anti-U.S. criticism in Europe. For example, Tass reports: "The ABC television company, quoting specialists on international problems, points out that the main purpose of the American President's speech was far from a real desire to end the arms race. ABC analyst Sam Donaldson said that the purpose of Reagan's speech was to present the U.S. President as a man striving for peace ... to change the attitude towards him as a leader striving for cold war and stepping up the arms race." (FBIS)

Other U.S.-Soviet Developments

(C) Washington Issues Declassified Background Paper Refuting Soviet TNF Claims --
The State Department has prepared and sent to all U.S. diplomatic missions in Europe the final version of a declassified paper refuting Soviet claims on the theater nuclear forces balance. Missions are cautioned, however, that the paper may be used to brief the media, but on a background basis only, and is not to be attributed as an official U.S. document. The paper makes the point that the Soviet claim that a TNF balance already exists is built upon a highly manipulative and deceptive selection of data -- which, for example, omits large numbers of Soviet systems comparable to those the Soviets count on the Western side. If truly comparable systems are counted on both sides in an objective and impartial manner, what emerges is not a balance, but a major -- and growing -- Soviet advantage. (Confidential, SECSTATE-306839 GDS 11/18/87)

(C) Agency Media Put Soviet Bloc Missions in Bangladesh on the Run --
A recent significant increase in Bangladesh of Soviet press releases on USSR trade and aid may be traced to increased media coverage of statements by President Reagan and other high-level U.S. officials. USICA Dacca believes Washington statements lately have spotlighted the poor Soviet track record on foreign aid. While using Agency-supplied materials to underscore this point the Post has increased placement in the local media of a wide range of Agency materials on U.S.-Soviet issues. An informal committee of information officers from key Western embassies in Bangladesh is comparing notes and taking joint action with USICA Dacca, when appropriate, with the local media on Soviet disinformation. This group will also consult on how best to bring pressure to bear on such Soviet weak points as Afghanistan, Kampuchea and "yellow rain." (Confidential, USICA-Dacca 7672)

(LOU) USICA Tokyo Calls Project Truth First Instalment 'Instructive' --

The first instalment of an Agency series treating basic Soviet principles and techniques was "instructive and, combined with themes of Soviet's concentration, a useful primer to launch (Project Truth)," USICA Tokyo says. The Post presumes that future issues "will be briefer and keyed more to a case study approach." It feels that "well-documented examples of Soviet efforts on elements of the U.S.-Japan relationship and ... Japanese relations with other strategically important countries" would be particularly helpful. The Post has under way a survey of Soviet-theme and Soviet-source articles in Japanese periodicals and asks if the Article Alert series can source articles related to Japan. The Post appreciates the invitation to consult on "this new initiative" and "sees opportunities for clearer perception of Soviet propaganda effectiveness or lack of it." (Limited Official Use, USICA-Tokyo 20956)

The Polish Situation

(U) Parliament Warns Citizenry: Emergency Orders Could Be Imposed --

Poles were warned again today that the authorities could order emergency measures to halt strikes if social unrest continues. The parliament issued a statement reminding Poles of the resolution it adopted unanimously on Oct. 31 calling for an end to all strikes and threatening a strike ban and other measures if the call went unheeded. (Reuter)

Private Sector

(U) 'Reader's Digest' Editors' Mideast Tour Facilitated by USICA Posts --

The chief editors of Reader's Digest worldwide editions will make their first trip to the Middle East beginning Dec. 8. USICA offices in Amman, Jidda, Muscat, and Damascus will coordinate the group's programs with local governments. (Unclassified, USICA-Paris 35062)

Latin American Developments

(C) Demonstrations Anticipated During Haig Mexico Visit --

Secretary Haig's Nov. 23-24 visit with Mexican Foreign Minister Castaneda has to date elicited only one newspaper comment (by leftist-nationalist Excelsior). However, the Mexican press in recent weeks has carried an "overwhelming number of editorials and columns criticizing the tougher U.S. position on Cuba and Nicaragua," Embassy Mexico says. The Excelsior column, headlined "Haig: Non-Grata," asks that the Secretary "be received with hostility by our people, who will demonstrate in this way their disagreement with U.S. belligerent policy." The Mexican Socialist Workers Party plans a Nov. 22 demonstration against the visit which will end

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in front of the Embassy. Other leftist groups have signalled a series of demonstrations, rallies and cultural events" in support of Nicaragua, Cuba and El Salvador will start the last day of the Secretary's visit. Mexican government officials, the Embassy says, are counselling vagueness in the announcement of the Secretary's schedule "in order to avoid inviting opposition demonstrations." In addition, several elements on the schedule are "so private," in the Mexican view, "that they should either not appear on the schedule or be acknowledged only if pressed." (Confidential, SECSTATE-Mexico 15218 GDS 11/17/87; Unclassified, USICA-Mexico 15217)

(U) Agency Asked To Arrange 'El Mundo' Written Interview With President Reagan --
USICA La Paz asks the Agency to do its best on a request by well-known correspondents of El Mundo, one of Bolivia's leading newspapers, for a written interview with President Reagan. The Post says the paper tries to present world and Bolivian news "honestly and thoroughly, within the limits imposed by local political events." It subscribes to major U.S. wire services and "uses large amounts of USICA material." The correspondents are not employees of the paper, but personal friends of its director, a 1980 USICA grantee, who has authorized them "to try to obtain the interview during their U.S. visit." (Unclassified, USICA-La Paz 6770)

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(C) Embassy Rome Says Italy Awaits Red Brigades Fall Offensive --
All Italy is waiting for the Red Brigades "fall offensive." Hypotheses offered as to probable targets include NATO and U.S. installations in Naples and North Italy, with the expectation of "a big attack" before year's end in the Brigades' "continuing effort to destabilize Italian institutions." Assumption among officials, says Embassy Rome, is that Italy's major industries, "particularly in the north where the Red Brigades are well-organized," will be the major focus and that "foreign and military targets are too well able to defend themselves to be of primary interest to the terrorists at this time. The Embassy feels that the terrorists' lack of popular following will lead them to include "a strong public relations element, designed to identify terrorism with popular causes" in the Brigades' next action -- "whenever and wherever it comes." Italian law enforcement efforts continue in disarray, and "beyond the occasional arrests often based on luck, there is little they can do other than analyze past terrorist acts and await the next ones." (Confidential, SECSTATE-Rome 26972 GDS 11/18/87)

(U) Smithsonian Official to Seek Muscat Support for Museum's Arab Program --
The State Department advises Embassy Muscat that the Smithsonian Institution's assistant secretary for museum programs, Paul Perrot, will visit Muscat Nov. 28 in support of the Smithsonian's proposal to expand its programs of

study and exhibition of Middle Eastern cultures, ancient and modern. The programs of the Freer Gallery, including its Islamic art program, will extend into a new facility on the Mall in Washington which will provide storage, study, conference and exhibition area, "permitting a steady flow of materials enriching Smithsonian offerings on a region too little understood in America." To awaken interest in this new facility, says the Department, Smithsonian Secretary Ripley has been systematically visiting ambassadors in Washington and proposes to visit the Middle East after the first of the year. Perrot has already begun travels to the Middle East to awaken interest. He visited Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the Emirates and Iraq in October and early November. (Unclassified, SECSTATE 307025)

(C) Slip of a High-Level Lip in Tokyo Wipes Out Good Washington Guidance --

The Japanese foreign ministry has expressed to Embassy Tokyo "profound appreciation" for delivery by the U.S. of clarification of remarks made last week by ACDA Director Rostow concerning theater nuclear forces deployment in Asia. With some embarrassment, however, the ministry also related to the Embassy that Prime Minister Sonoda "unfortunately failed to follow the guidance" and chose instead to make some off-the-cuff remarks which were unhelpful. The ministry notes that the Prime Minister's office will shortly issue a clarification of Sonoda's remarks lest they be misinterpreted. (Confidential, SECSTATE-Tokyo 20962 GDS 11/19/87)

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